

82-25461

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 20, 1982

Dear Mr. Chancellor:

Thank you for your letter of December 4, 1981, concerning the United States support for the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). I have given it careful consideration. I regret to inform you, however, that our position has not changed. The United States Government cannot extend support for IIASA beyond 1982.

My decision was based on several factors, including how best to apportion the limited funds available for international scientific cooperation. I am aware that a serious effort has been made by the IIASA Council to find some suitable accommodation to our budgetary constraints. However, we have concluded that the scientific interests of the United States are more productively served by other programs.

Moreover, Mr. Chancellor, I would be less than frank if I did not also tell you that our problems with IIASA go beyond budgetary and scientific considerations. We have long been concerned about the balance of technology exchanges at IIASA. The Soviets and Eastern Europeans have used IIASA to obtain access to Western scientists, techniques, and data banks beyond what normally would be approved on a bilateral basis without providing anything comparable in return from their side. Thus, the element of reciprocity, vital to any cooperative program beneficial to East-West understanding, is lacking and has been for some time.

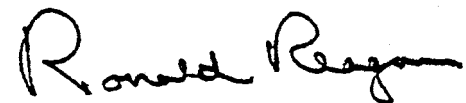
NSC review completed.

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Moreover, the recent espionage case involving a Soviet staff member of IIASA, which is troublesome in and of itself, also raises questions about whether the representatives of all Member states are faithful to the Institute's open and scientific purpose. These problems are particularly of concern to us now in light of the current Soviet-sponsored oppression in Poland.

I do appreciate your sharing your views on this subject with me, and I regret that we could not have been more in accord on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ronald Reagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "R" at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

His Excellency
Dr. Bruno Kreisky,
Chancellor of the
Republic of Austria, Vienna